



August 2021

Saint Paul Resident,

As you may know, the City of Saint Paul has been managing the emerald ash borer (EAB) environmental crisis since it was first discovered in the city in 2009. Since 2011, select public ash trees throughout Saint Paul have been treated by the city. The goal of the treatment program was two-fold, to slow the spread of EAB throughout the city and beyond, and to increase the amount of time the city had to address public ash trees throughout Saint Paul. The underlying intent of the overall EAB Management Plan has always been the eventual removal and replacement of all public ash trees, including those being treated by the city.

You are receiving this letter because there is at least one ash tree adjacent to your property that has previously been treated by the city and we want to provide some important information on upcoming changes in the city's treatment program. Effective immediately, the city will no longer begin new treatment cycles on ash trees currently being treated. Trees treated in 2020 and 2021 have already received their final treatment. Trees last treated in 2019 will receive one final city administered treatment in 2022. ***Please note: this change applies to city treated trees only and will not impact any ash tree being treated on a regular interval by the adjacent property owner via the established permitting process.***

Now is your opportunity to determine the next course of action for the treated public ash tree(s) adjacent to your property. Please review the following options:

Option 1- Removal & replacement (default) – Through a unique funding partnership with the Saint Paul Port Authority, there are funds available for the removal and replacement of all remaining ash trees on city right-of-way, including those adjacent to your property. This funding will help the city reach its goal of removing all public ash by 2024 and replacing them by the end of 2026. Any ash trees that remain beyond 2024 will be removed when deemed necessary by Forestry and replacement will be subject to available funding at that time. You do not need to do anything if you prefer your treated tree be removed and replaced on this timeline by Saint Paul Forestry.

Option 2 – Adjacent property owner takes on treatment regimen (permit required) – You can find more information on treatment, including the free permit at www.stpaul.gov/eab. Please note that any public ash treated by a property owner is still subject to the permit's terms and conditions, including removal if necessary. ***Permit applications must be submitted by May 1, 2022 to be considered for approval.***

The goal of Saint Paul Forestry is a vibrant and sustainable urban forest and managing the EAB infestation is just one component. As the infestation has expanded throughout Saint Paul and the metro area, all ash trees have experienced pressure from this pest, even those being treated with insecticides. While treated trees have been kept alive, health varies from tree to tree. It is the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Department that property owners take all variables into account including the health of the ash tree(s) and the cost of treatment when determining next steps.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Saint Paul Forestry Team